REGISTERED No. M 4345

MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. IV FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1942 No. 7

A CRADLE OF HEROES

H.E. LORD LINLITHGOW

WHEREVER in the world there is talk of brave deeds and soldier-like qualities of endurance and fortitude, the men of this land are brought to mind. Here for centuries, generations of sturdy farmers have won their harvests from the hard earth, and have defended their heritage with courage and resolution. Since the dawn of history, India has bred famous soldiers ; the hills and plains which surround us can justly claim to be a cradle of heroes, a soil which has nourished the flower of India's armies. There are among us to-day brave men who fought for freedom and civilization in the last world war, and now that these two precious jewels are in peril once again, their sons and grandsons are keeping bright and sharp the sword they forged and are facing our common enemies with the same stout shield

—His Excellency LORD LINLITHGOW *in a speech at Rawalpindi on Monday, October 19*

Running Commentary

India Debate in the Lords —Britain's Policy and American Opinion

The debate on India in the House of Lords on Tuesday (October 20th) has once again drawn attention to the fact that the Cripps offer stands. The Duke of Devonshire, Under-Secretary of State for India, said, "The Lord Privy Seal went to India with the full and comprehensive offer of Self-Government for India. He made a great and sustained effort to get the offer accepted. He overstayed his original time-table by a long time, but it was not accepted, not because it was not sufficiently comprehensive. We offered India all that we had to offer. . . I believe that the next move must come from India. When that fact is realized, the next move may come; but, until it is realized, the deadlock will continue."

Britain's policy towards India was emphasized in the House of Commons by Mr. Amery a few days ago. He said the Government policy was not one of reluctant retreat, but willing advance; not one of enforced abdication; but freely proffered partnership in freedom. "That is a fact," reiterated the Government spokesman in the House of Lords, and added, "Self-Government for India was the ultimate goal of British statesmanship long before there was any conscious demand for it from India, long before there was such a thing as the Congress Party." Winding up the debate in the House of Lords Lord Simon, the Lord Chancellor, said, "I claim to say on behalf of the Government that the aim of the Government's policy is that Indians should themselves mould the destiny of India, free from external dictation and control." He pointed out that the great fact about the Cripps proposal was that it recognized that a great patriotic development in a great country must come from within. But the Cripps negotiations broke down and, in the words of the Duke of Devonshire, "stuck upon the sand-banks of the Congress Party's unwillingness to come to any compromise with the Indian parties and with the Government." The Duke added: "Since the breakdown which the Congress Party deliberately brought about, the Government of India had been confronted with a formidable conspiracy designed to paralyse the Government of India." The disorders staged in India with a view to gaining this objective were principally directed against communications, such as railways, buses and telegraphs, and were most serious in those parts of India where such activities would have been most paralysing in the event of a Japanese invasion. The Under-Secretary for India said that there was "evidence, strong evidence, that the Congress Party has so directed its campaign as to do maximum damage to India's war-effort and render India vulnerable in the most dangerous quarter." And Lord Simon said, "It is quite plainly revealed that the Congress Party has been engaged, though it said that it is supporting a policy of non-violence, in some of the most shocking violence and has committed some of the most frightful crimes." These crimes and the methods of the Congress Party at the present time do not command approval or support of American public opinion. America has no doubt taken a good deal of interest in Indian affairs and shown a sincere desire for positive steps to end the deadlock, but American opinion has almost unanimously condemned the Congress Party's attitude and approved the Government's action.

SPECIAL ARMY SUPPLEMENT

With this Number is issued a Special Army Supplement of

28 PAGES

THE Editor wishes to express his thanks to the Military authorities who have contributed articles and pictures to this Supplement, and would welcome any further suggestions that may increase mutual respect and good fellowship between the Military and the civil population

British Mission to China—Allies' Gesture of Friendship

The British Mission to China is on its way. It consists of two members from the House of Lords and two from the House of Commons. The Mission has been sent in response to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek's expressed wish that such a delegation should visit Chungking this autumn. It passed through Lisbon on Saturday last. The delegation will have a particularly warm welcome in China, which deeply appreciates the great gesture of friendship which Britain and America have extended to her by renouncing their extra-territorial rights and privileges in that country. An official *communiqué* issued on October 10th in London recalled that in public announcements made on January 14, 1939, July 18, 1940, and June 11, 1941, His Majesty's Government declared that they were prepared, at the conclusion of hostilities in the Far East, to negotiate with the Chinese Government for the abrogation of extra-territorial rights and privileges hitherto enjoyed by their nationals in China. A similar announcement was made by the United States Government that in order to emphasize their solidarity with the Chinese Allies, they would relinquish extra-territorial rights and privileges in China and settlement of questions intimately connected with it.

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Three Important Implications: The 1926 Pledge

This declaration has three important implications. Firstly, it is a fulfilment of the pledge made by Britain many years ago to surrender such rights and privileges. Secondly, it represents the first formal announcement of Anglo-American co-operation in planning the future of the Pacific. Thirdly, it is a direct challenge to Japan's "Co-prosperity sphere" and a psychological spear-head of the forthcoming Anglo-American offensive against the Japanese. Drawing attention to these implications, *Reuter's* Diplomatic Correspondent recalls the 1926 pledge, which declared that Britain was prepared to make the British residents in China subject to new Chinese law codes and courts. In accordance with that pledge, the British concessions at Hankow, Chinkiang and Kiukiang were handed back to China. The abolition of extra-territorial privileges in China is not a sudden and isolated act, but the end of a process which has long been under the favourable consideration of the British and American Governments. The first step of this process was the admission of China into the League of Nations, and the second was America's handing over to China her share of the Boxer indemnity, which greatly helped in building up a new educational system in China. The third step was, as stated earlier, Britain's return of Hankow and other concessions 16 years ago. There is a long history behind the principle of extra-territoriality, which is merely an arrangement by which strangers living in a foreign country are allowed to live as a separate community, observe their own customs, and administer their own laws and their own codes.

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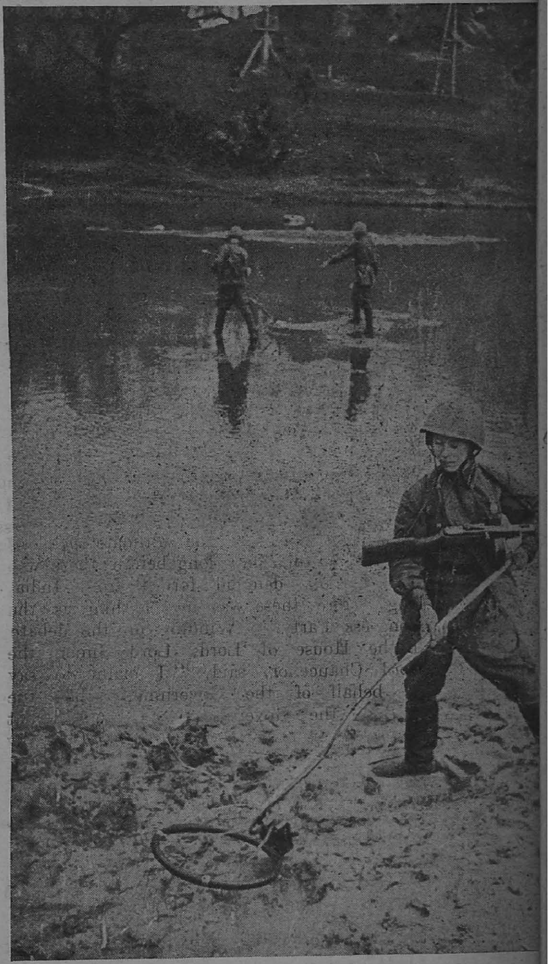

THE WESTERN FRONT—Sappers clearing a river-bed of mines.

Extra-Territoriality: Encroachment on Sovereignty

In modern times, extra-territoriality was recognized by the Ottoman Turkish Empire under which non-Muslim communities, such as Greeks and Armenians, were allowed to govern themselves by their own law. This administrative convenience became a serious political danger when the Turkish power declined. What was intended to save trouble came to have the impress of political inferiority.

The same thing happened in China. Extra-territoriality which was first granted as an easy way of dealing with unwanted foreigners led to the growth of a series of compact foreign settlements, supported by formidable power, in the midst of China. Extra-territoriality sometimes came to be considered as an encroachment on sovereignty.

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Significance of Abolition: Atlantic Charter and Asia The justification of extra-territoriality lay in the vast differences of law and custom between nationals and foreigners, but in modern times the tendency has been towards amalgamation of law and custom, and this is the result of the free movement of ideas. The Code Napoleon, which was inspired by the principles of Roman law was generally the basic inspiration of all new systems of law. It may be said that the whole non-Anglo-Saxon world acknowledges the principle of Roman law, while the Anglo-Saxon law is itself deeply influenced by Roman concepts. The abolition of extra-territorial rights and privileges is a recognition that a common standard of public conduct and justice exists. Further it has also another significance. Along with similar action in Persia it means that the principles of the Atlantic Charter are being applied to Asia. These significant features of unity and closer friendship will be further strengthened by the visit of the British Mission to China.

* * * *

Russia: Germans to Adopt New Defensive Technique *Reuter's* Special Correspondent, in a despatch from Moscow on October 20th, says that the issue of the whole Stalingrad battle hangs dangerously in the balance, and that if the Germans once install themselves in the northern part of the City, the position in the centre will become very precarious. The situation looks extremely critical, but it is well to bear in mind that, whatever may be the ultimate result of this battle, Germany has failed to break up the Soviet Union or to destroy the Red Army as a fighting machine. It is significant that surprisingly frank admissions on this point have been made by General Dietmar and other German military commentators in recent weeks. Germany now seems to feel confident that the original purpose of her attack on Russia can be secured by an alternative method. The Germans have gained considerable experience in fighting in the Leningrad and Moscow sectors, and afterwards in holding the Russian counter-offensive last winter. That experience seems to be responsible for the emergence of a new defensive technique. The Germans have learned that a web of fortified positions, protected by minefields and supported by mobile field and anti-tank batteries, can offer formidable resistance to tank formations. During the winter, the German army which had almost reached the limit of endurance, escaped disaster by this network of fortified positions at key points such as Rzhev, Briansk, Vyasma, Orel and Kharkov. Again this summer, this defensive network of the German Command prevented a break-through by Russian diversionary assaults.

* * * *

Hitler' Boast: Weaknesses in the German Plan Hitler boasted that once Germans were in Stalingrad they would never be got out of it. This indicates that the German plan is to extend this defensive wall to the Volga and then rely on it to hold the Red Army indefinitely. The Germans think that the striking power of the Russian forces would steadily diminish as a result of the lost resources of oil, iron and coal, and that this would help the progressive reduction of the German garrison in Russia. But this ignores the fact that the loss of fuel and raw materials can be temporarily met by increased Anglo-American supplies by way of Murmansk and *via* Persia and by reserve stocks accumulated in Central Russia and the Ural regions. These reserve stocks were steadily built up as a matter of precaution, as the Russian Command had, at an early stage, envisaged the possibility of having to withdraw to the line of the Volga. There are also other weaknesses in the German plan.

AN A.R.P. WARNING

"IT WAS NOTED AFTER THE Japanese air raid near Chittagong (some months ago) that a yellow or yellow green powder formed around or near the bomb craters," says a Training and Operations Circular issued by the Civil Defence Department, Government of India, for the guidance of A.R.P. Services which deal with the disposal of unexploded bombs. The Circular continues:

"It has been confirmed that this powder is part of the high explosive filling. This powder, if it comes into contact with the skin, will cause acute Dermatitis with extreme irritation which, in some cases, may result in serious secondary infection. Any such powder found near the bomb crater should not, therefore, be touched with bare hands. Gloves or other suitable protection should be used."

The German assumption that they would be able to contain the Russian armies in the south by means of a continuation of the fortified belt down to Stalingrad does not take into account that the enormously long lines of communication on the Stalingrad sector and in the Caucasus are dangerously exposed to Russian attacks for several hundreds of miles along the upper Don southwards from Voronezh. As a matter of fact, the scale and weight of Russian counter-attacks all along this line have been increasing instead of diminishing.

* * * *

Western Front: British-American Offensive

Now let us turn to the Western front. The Germans are expecting a fresh and extremely formidable enemy attack to appear at any time in Western Europe. And here also they are putting their faith in the same sort of fortified network as in Russia. Just as they are relying on the progressive weakening of the Russian military machine by depriving it of necessary raw materials, so also they are counting on their U-boats to starve off the British-American offensive. But the submarine menace is now being steadily mastered on account of new devices and stronger escorts. It is true, however, that Germany saved itself from defeat this summer on account of the losses she inflicted on Allied shipping.

Now the broad feature of the German plan is to harness the whole enslaved Europe to their own war-machine. They have already bolted and barred the doors leading to Europe from east to west and from the Mediterranean. They have seized so large a part of Russia that they command sufficient wheat, iron, coal and nickel (though not yet oil) to carry on indefinitely. It was to this that Goering referred when he said in a recent outburst, "Do not forget that we have taken from the Russians their best territories. Swamps do not interest us. There they may remain. We did not intend to expand in this direction and become reptiles. But we have planned properly and taken that part which is useful."

* * * *

Enslaved Europe to Supply More Man-power to Germany

Now the Germans want more and more man-power. They are determined to convert all Europe into an enormous Nazi workshop manned by helots. Poland, Czechoslovakia and France particularly are under a regime of terror. France has been asked to give 150,000 skilled workers and Laval is trying his best to find the required men for Germany. Ruthless action is being taken and the brutalities perpetrated in Norway and Belgium may be repeated in France. The idea is to carry out the German plan of increasing her labour-power by a scientific and carefully planned terror in the enslaved lands of the west. As one observer has remarked:

"It will consist in breaking up European nations, and it means the physical destruction of the recalcitrant, systematic starvation of the useless, and mass deportation of the useful rest on an hitherto unimagined scale. Its agents will be Himmler and his henchmen, and its instrument had been created in the armed Waffen *SS*."

The Germans thus want to harness the whole conquered Europe's man-power, raw materials, food and factories with modern scientific precision and cold-blooded savagery. They want to make Germany and German-occupied Europe into a self-sufficient fortress capable of withstanding the Anglo-American siege for an indefinite period. In other words, **The Germans who won their conquests by offensive strategy are being constrained to hold them by defensive measures.**

* * * *

United Nations: Perilous Stage of War has Pass e

Hitler's recent speech was a tacit but clear admission that the German plan of achieving decisive and final victory by concentrating on each opponent singly, and in turn, has failed, and that Germany is now about to adopt a policy of strategical defence. That is to say, **Hitler has lost the race against time and now wants to make time his Ally.** So far as the United Nations are concerned, the most perilous stage of the war has passed. This is certainly good ground for solid satisfaction. But it does not mean that victory is yet within our grasp. It is the immediate task of the British and American military authorities to work out new combinations and devices which will break the back of the German military machine and bring the eagerly hoped-for victory much nearer.

Troops Entertained

BRITISH and American soldiers and civilians ate Indian foods off plantain leaves with their fingers when they were entertained by the Bangalore City Y.W.C.A. A three course dinner was served in the quadrangle of the Medical School and this was followed by music and an exhibition of Indian dancing.

Diary of the War

AIR ACTIVITY OVER GERMANY AND ENGLAND

17th Oct.—The Royal Air Force bombed Cologne. The docks at Le Havre were attacked.

Hess, it was stated in London, was a military prisoner of war and not a prisoner of State.

18th Oct.—The Royal Air Force attacked targets in Holland. An enemy ship was sunk off the French coast.

A large Atlantic convoy arrived safely in Britain.

20th Oct.—Three air raid alerts were sounded in London. Two German bombers were brought down over East Anglian and the Thames estuary towns.

Mr. Churchill, in a message read at the Wembley Stadium, stressed the possibility of "heavy and menacing" German raids on British towns.

21st Oct.—Scattered German planes were over England.

The Admiralty announced that two new British battleships, sister ships of the ill-fated *Prince of Wales*, were now at sea.

22nd Oct.—Addressing the Parliament, Field-Marshal Smuts (South African Prime Minister) said: "Once the time has come to take the offensive, it would be folly to delay, overpare and perhaps miss the opportunity."

23rd Oct.—An enemy supply ship was torpedoed off the Norwegian coast. Targets in northern France were raided. Factories and barges were attacked in western Germany.

Army Religious Teachers

RELIGIOUS teachers are now authorized by Government for all units of the Indian Army. The scale is one teacher for each religious group, provided the authorized establishment of Viceroy Commissioned Officers and Indian other ranks in the unit is not less than 120.

EXEMPLARY CONDUCT

THE MADRAS FORTRESS Command has, in a press note, appreciated the exemplary conduct of RAJU, son of SENI CHETTIYAR, and CHINNAPPAN, son of MURUGAPPA CHETTI, life-savers and watchmen of the Madras Bathers' Protection Association.

At a recent accident at Elliots' Beach on the 24th September 1942, both RAJU and CHINNAPPAN rushed, without fear or hesitation and at considerable risk to themselves, to the assistance of 2nd Lieut. R. M. SHEPARD, 25/16 Punjab Regiment, who was being attacked by a shark. Their prompt action almost averted a fatal accident.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

17th Oct.—Reykjavik had its fourth air raid alert in five days.

It was revealed that a new weapon against the U-boat called "Fairmiles" was in operation with the Canadian navy. They are submarine chasers.

The possibility of post-war development of flying motor cars—travelling both on land and in the air—was pictured by Mr. E. E. Wilson, President of the American United Aircraft Corporation.

18th Oct.—Mr. Mackenzie King, Canadian Prime Minister, stated in a speech in Montreal: "After three years of war, nowhere is the balance turned decisively against the enemy."

21st Oct.—Mrs. Roosevelt was expected to go to London at some future time.

* * * *

INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

17th Oct.—United States Army aircraft raided the Japanese aerodrome at Lashio in northern Burma. Several hits were scored. Fires were visible for 40 miles.

General Wavell inspected the forward positions on the north-east frontier.

19th Oct.—Mr. Li Shao-ta, a Chinese leader from Johore, who arrived in Chungking reported large-scale systematic killing, plundering and burning by the Japanese in Malaya.

20th Oct.—The presence in New Delhi of Generals Wavell, Auchinleck and Stilwell was interpreted as connected with an Allied drive against Burma.

21st Oct.—The Royal Air Force attacked enemy transport vehicles in the vicinity of Kan in the Myittha valley.

23rd Oct.—The Royal Air Force attacked objectives at Monywa.

* * * *

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

17th Oct.—The British troops advanced in Madagascar and occupied the town of Ambositra.

Tobruk was attacked by the Royal Air Force.

It was revealed that Greek troops were fighting on the Egyptian front.

Three Axis supply ships were sunk in the Mediterranean.

18th Oct.—The Royal Air Force again raided Tobruk. Ships in Benghazi were attacked by United States bombers.

According to the Vichy Radio, absolute calm prevailed at Dakar.

19th Oct.—United States troops arrived in Liberia and occupied several points.

20th Oct.—Rommel lost his reinforcements.

More than 230 Axis planes raided Malta four times yesterday.

21st Oct.—The British forces took prisoner the French Commander in Madagascar.

Enemy targets at Tobruk and Fuka were bombed.

22nd Oct.—Four enemy ships were sunk in the Mediterranean.

A few Italian planes flew over Gibralter.

Enemy ships in Tobruk were attacked.

23rd Oct.—Landing grounds in Fuka and Daba were attacked.

* * * *

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

17th Oct.—The Red Army withdrew from the north-west suburb of Stalingrad. The Germans suffered heavy losses in men and tanks. Timoshenko's "Relief Army" succeeded in breaking down enemy resistance.

According to a report from Zurich, Field Marshal Mannerheim of Finland sent a letter to the Pope discussing the possibilities of a separate peace for Finland.

18th Oct.—Soviet troops withdrew in the north of Stalingrad. Fierce fighting raged in the city.

Russia and Luxemburg agreed to re-establish relations and exchange diplomatic representatives.

19th Oct.—Timoshenko's armies hammered at the German left flank. The Soviet army consolidated positions north-west of the city.

20th Oct.—The Germans did not make any progress in Stalingrad. The decisive stage of the battle began.

Five German transport ships were sunk in the Baltic.

21st Oct.—The situation was extremely critical in Stalingrad. The Germans won some slight gains near Novorossisk.

22nd Oct.—The Germans made a bid for Grozny, but their attacks were repelled. Stalingrad's defences were still intact.

23rd Oct.—German assault slowed down. The defenders improved their positions. Over 2,200 German tanks were destroyed in the eight weeks of battle.

* * * *

SHIPPING

17th Oct.—A west-bound merchantship was torpedoed and sunk off the south shore of the St. Lawrence river. The 4,000-ton ship was one of a small convoy.

21st Oct.—A German ferry boat was torpedoed by a submarine between Germany and Sweden.

* * * *

VICHY AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

17th Oct.—According to the Stockholm correspondent of the Independent French Agency, tension was mounting between Berlin and Vichy.

18th Oct.—Countrywide disturbances took place in France. There was an explosion in the Lyons railway station. Another bomb explosion took place in M. Doriot's District Headquarters.

B E A

S C E P T I C !

A sceptic is a man who believes nothing

Unless he knows it to be true.

Be a sceptic over rumours.

Most of them are made in Japan

With intent to mislead you.

DON'T BELIEVE RUMOURS

BUILD THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT AGAINST THE JAPANESE

19th Oct.—In the heaviest daylight raid of the war, the Royal Air Force attacked the Great French armament factory at Le Creusot, about 170 miles south-east of Paris.

20th Oct.—An attempt on the life of the Croat Quishing Premier, Pavelitch, was made at Zagreb.

Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands warned the Dutch of serious consequences for those who assisted the Nazi terror regime.

Registration took place for work in Germany of all male Frenchmen between the ages of 18 and 50.

21st Oct.—Three Belgians were executed by the German Court Martial.

* * * *

THE FAR EAST

17th Oct.—The Allies raided Kiska. United States troops occupied another Island in the Aleutians.

Enemy positions were strafed in the Owen Stanley area.

A large number of Japanese troops landed in Guadalcanar. American positions were shelled.

A big air and naval battle was being fought out in the Solomons Islands.

18th Oct.—The Japanese were forced back in the Owen Stanley area. The Allies raided Timor and Buin. Japanese assaults were held by the American forces in the Solomons.

19th Oct.—The Japanese met with reverses in East Chekiang. Enemy forces were attacked east of Canton and heavy casualties inflicted.

There was a heavy raid on Kiska.

20th Oct.—United States bombers put two Japanese destroyers out of action north-west of Kiska.

Three Japanese cruisers were hit in Allied bombing raids on Northern Solomons.

Japanese advance on Hupeh was checked.

21st Oct.—There was another attack on Kiska by United States bombers.

The Japanese took the offensive in the Solomons. An Allied counter-offensive against Rabaul in New Britain was expected.

The Tokyo Radio announced that punishment in accordance with military regulations had been meted out to United States fliers captured after the raid on Japan on April 18.

22nd Oct.—The Japanese were pushed back in New Guinea.

23rd Oct.—United States lost two destroyers in the Solomons. The Japanese retreated in New Guinea.

An alert was sounded in Chungking.

A town in Yunnan was bombed by the enemy.

LOCAL INHABITANTS *need not apply!*

In occupied China the Japanese have ousted the Chinese from every decent job from the top to the bottom of the business world. There are no Chinese industrialists any more, no Chinese shopkeepers, no Chinese professional men or stenographers or clerks, not even Chinese street-vendors. These jobs are for the Japanese, the rewards of conquest. This is what happens when the Japanese come. Do not stand by and see this happen in India! The energies of every man and woman are needed to make our defences sure.

BUILD THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT *- against the Japanese*

PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS AND PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF WAR PUBLICITY, "VICTORY HOUSE", MOUNT ROAD, MADRAS.

REGISTERED No. M 4345

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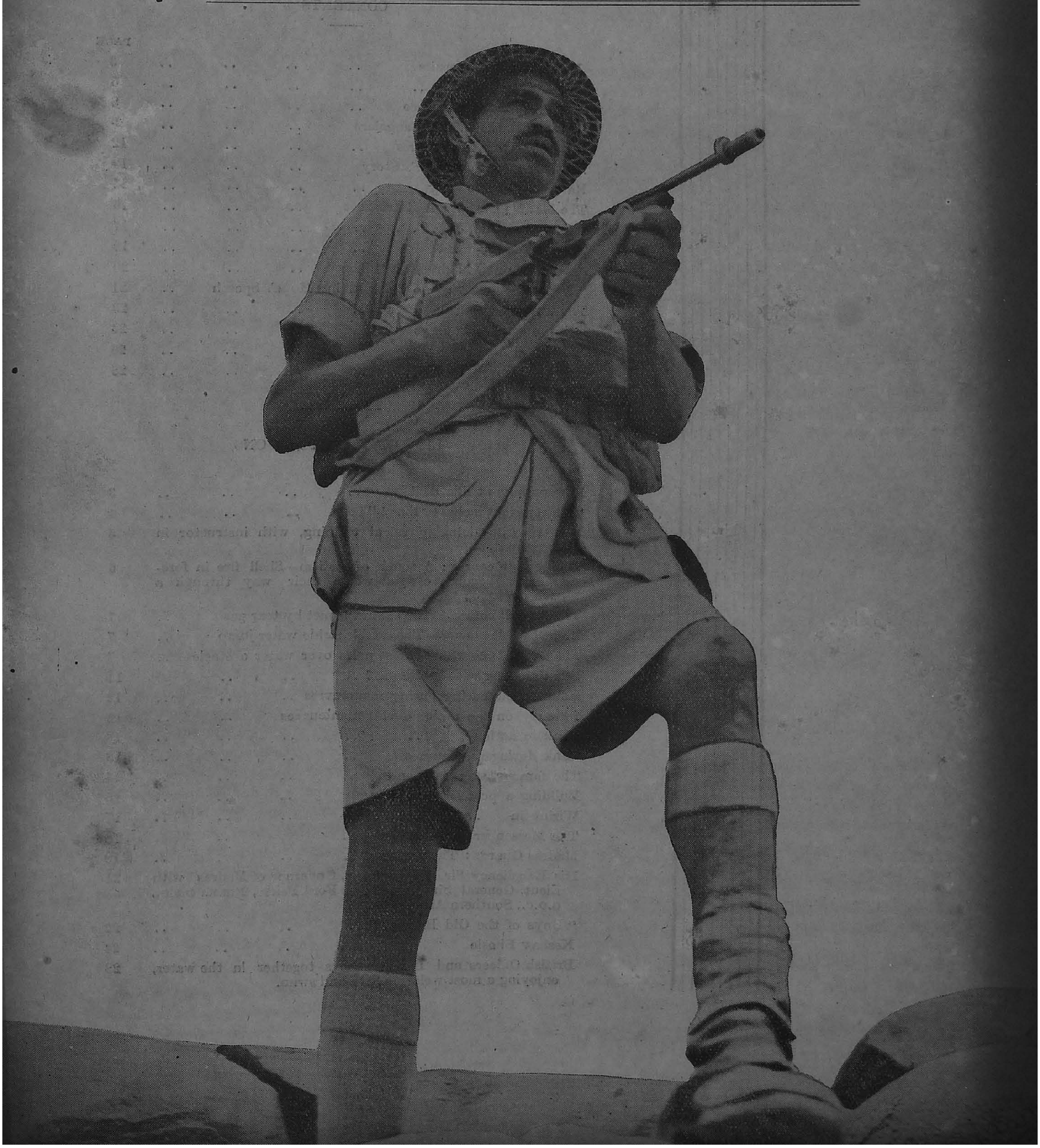
ATTACK!



Special Army Supplement

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Recruiting and Recruits

A recruit is a volunteer and he is not suddenly snatched out of his village. For months he has probably come across some form of Recruiting Propaganda such as talk of or seeing a poster. Most probably he has heard described the experiences of some one who has already joined up and has returned on leave to his village to describe the wonders of the Indian Army.

He makes up his mind to join the Army. He settles his affairs and then goes to the village headman or perhaps to a paid recruiter of the Recruiting Organization.

The paid recruiter feeds him and pays for his travelling until he produces him before the Extra Assistant Recruiting Officer.

There is an Extra Assistant Recruiting Officer's office in every district in the Madras Presidency; some districts have two, if not three offices and no recruit has to proceed farther than 70 miles before he comes to one of these officers. The Extra Assistant Recruiting Officer is constantly touring and so the prospective recruit can meet him in his own village if he wishes to.

New recruits at rifle drill.

Paid recruiters number several hundreds who constantly tour all the villages of the Madras Presidency and are known in most of them. They are easily distinguished by their khaki uniform and the green band on their arm. After the meeting the paid recruiter who gives him information regarding pay, etc., the recruit proceeds with him to the Office of the Extra Assistant Recruiting Officer.

From the moment the recruit decides to join the paid recruiter he is provided with food and has to think no more of money.

WITH THE E.A.R.O.

The Extra Assistant Recruiting Officer is an Indian gentleman of a high standing such as a retired Subedar or Subedar-Major or a Tahsildar lent by the Madras Government for the time, i.e., an honourable civilian. The Extra Assistant Recruiting Officer questions the would-be recruit as to his wishes, measures him, weighs him and has him examined by a doctor. He then tells the recruit that he thinks that he would make a sapper, or a gunner, or an infantry man, or any of the various branches that are open to him.

The recruit stays at the Extra Assistant Recruiting Officer's headquarters for a day or two. After a batch of recruits is collected he with the others are then forwarded by bus or train with one of the paid recruiters as a guide to the headquarters of the Assistant Recruiting Officer.

Assistant Recruiting Officer's headquarters contain barracks, wash-places, cook-houses, etc., which hold 200 to 500 men awaiting despatch; he is fed here for the first time on the plentiful rations given in the army. He comes under elementary military discipline and parades on the call of the bugle for roll-call for food and for inspection by the Assistant Recruiting Officer. He is given elementary training such as marching in threes, standing in line and spends his spare time at games and other forms of amusement.

Assistant Recruiting Officers are Indian or European gentlemen with a sound knowledge of the districts in which they work and who speak the language of their districts.

AT THE A.R.O.'S OFFICE

At the Assistant Recruiting Officer's headquarters each recruit is again medically examined, his height, weight and education are checked and he is finally selected by the Assistant Recruiting Officer in person for the Corps or Arm of Service which he wishes to join.

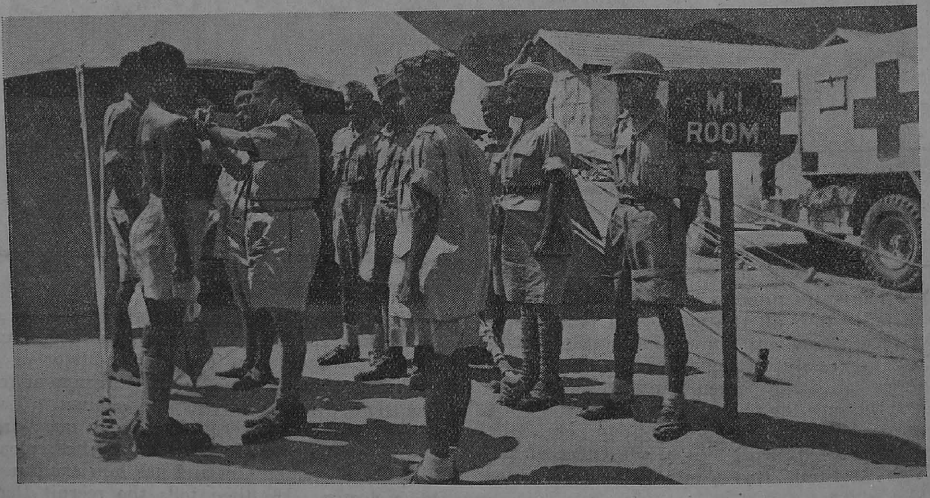
Each man is graded in accordance with his physical standard or his educational qualification. Tall, big men go to the gunners, others to the M.T. Branch of the R.I.A.S.C., Infantry or to the Q.V.O. Madras Sappers and Miners. Educated men, i.e., those who have passed II Form and over and those who can speak English can become cadet N.C.Os. signallers, stokers, and seamen in the Navy and so on.

The next procedure is enrolment and this is carried out with some formality. The recruits are lined up and each recruit answers thirteen questions. When the officer is satisfied that these questions have been understood and answered properly, he signs the enrolment form and the man becomes part of the Indian Army.

He is then despatched with a batch of recruits numbering anything from 10 to 100 by train; reserved accommodation is obtained or, if necessary, whole carriages are reserved. Again the paid recruiter travels as a guide and takes him to his new unit where he is to be trained to be a soldier.

The next time the family sees the recruit, is, when he comes back on leave very proud of his uniform, with money in his pocket and anxious to discuss the Army with those who listen to his experiences.

Recruiting is like a snow ball. The more and more it rolls the bigger it gets. The finest publicity for the Indian Army and for recruiting is the soldier who comes back on leave.



" Thirty-eight inches ! Fine ! "

The Modern Recruit

WHAT misconceptions there are in some people's minds about being a soldier! Even after three years of war, the idea of being a private soldier or sepoy seems to frighten many people and they still seem to think that the soldier is some kind of menial with nothing to do but march about with a rifle in his hand. This war has shown, very vividly, the evil and disastrous results of that misconceived impression. Nothing could be farther from the truth, for indeed the private soldier of to-day needs to be the most intelligent, educated and highly developed of men.

The training of a recruit is a fascinating education, a physical rebuilding and a moral regeneration. In order to become a self-contained and formidable fighting man, the for hours at a stretch in the sun, without smoke or water, erect barbed wire and protect himself against gas. He must always be seeking to attack his enemy and must be always alert. Above all, he must have an unhesitating habit of willing, immediate, and cheerful obedience to orders.

To accomplish this is not easy for many recruits and that is why the highest standard of material is required. But when the recruit does achieve it, he is a far better, healthier and happier man than most who remain in civil life.

The recruit may feel confused at first when he hears what he has to undergo, but the system has been worked out so well that

New recruits doing physical training, with instructor in foreground.

soldier must learn the real essentials of education. He must be able to review a series of events in his mind and condense it into a clear message, which he must write clearly. This is not easy even for a well-educated person. He must be able to find his way on a map, know his position, and be able to report it exactly. It can be readily understood that these two essentials require a good knowledge of Reading, Writing, Arithmetic and Geography.

He must become physically fit so that his eyes sparkle with the gladness that comes when limbs move freely, easily overcoming obstacles and long distances. He must become confident and expert in the use of many different weapons. He must be able to dig

with the good food which he gets and the good treatment which he receives, coupled with the enthusiasm and intelligence of his instructors, he soon finds himself progressing through his course with cheerfulness and real enthusiasm.

We have heard a great deal during this war about "morale". Indeed the regiment with a high morale can repeatedly rout and defeat many times its own numbers of regiments with low morale.

LORD CLIVE with 3,000 Madrasis defeated an enemy of 50,000 at the Battle of Plassey in Bengal. His energy and enthusiasm had produced such high morale among his troops that they were ready to do anything and take

on anybody. They did it in a storm of pouring rain, lightning and thunder, and the result was astounding.

Regimental pride is closely connected with " morale " and that is why every recruit is taught the history of his regiment. Every Officer should always have one great object in view, to see that his own Battalion has the highest morale and the best fighting spirit in the whole army.

Curiously enough morale is connected with such apparently minor things as saluting, a clean kit, shaving every morning, and personal pride.

It is an astonishing thing how quickly new recruits assimilate the morale of their new regiment. Famous battalions have been cut to pieces over and over again, and new batches of reinforcements have rapidly become just as good as the original soldiers. It is the spirit of the regiment that counts.

There are many other things that go to make up the spirit of the regiment. Regimental sports, the band, regimental concerts, regimental customs and personal connections between the Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and men.

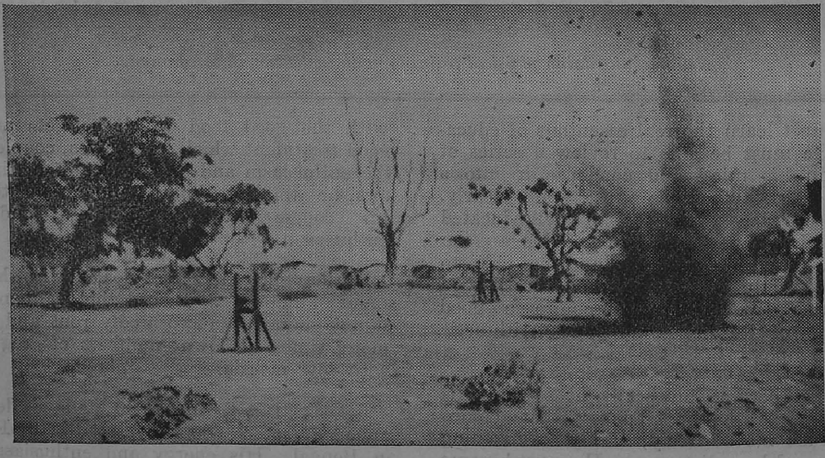
It should be the aim of every Commanding Officer to see that when the war is over his men are much more fit for a useful position in civil life than they were as recruits. He cannot, in war time, give them training in civil occupations but he can give them a mental training which will stand them in good stead all their lives.

Any man who learns properly how to obey orders easily learns how to give orders. This means that his mind has been taught to think properly and see things clearly. Therefore, he will learn to adapt himself to whatever occupation later comes to his hand.

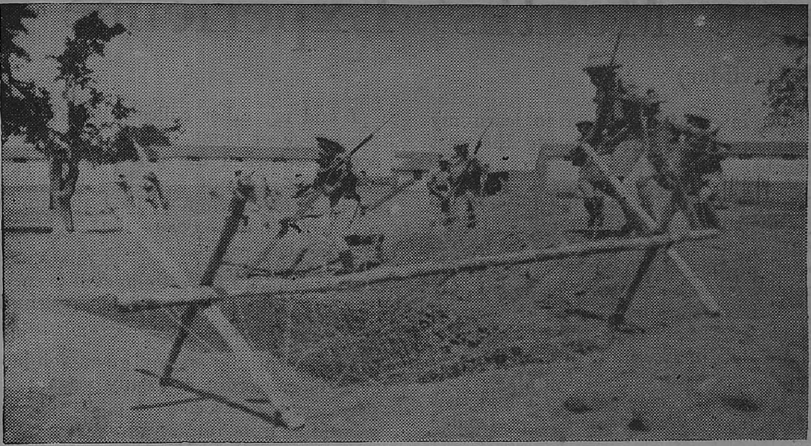
It is in this respect that the modern army is so different from the old army, wrong ideas about which are still in the minds of so many people. There is nothing fixed or stereotyped in the army to-day, and originality is always encouraged. When it comes to real war, a man is expected to use his imagination and by every ruse or stratagem to get the better of his enemy.

Stolid ignorance can always be defeated by intelligence. It was soon found out that tough bad characters were no use as Commando Troops. For all types of Guerilla or Commando fighting, high discipline and education are required, since it is the brain that has to be used and physical fitness is attained because the brain directs it.

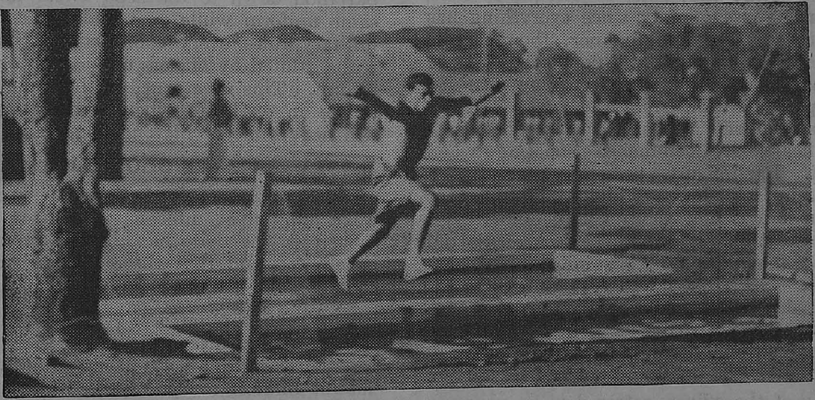
What is the conclusion that experience of modern Military training brings to the young soldier to-day? It is that it is the finest thing he has ever known. It combines the glamour of the Boy Scouts, the team-spirit of a college side, the friendship of good companions, with the faith in his leaders and in the great cause for which he is fighting. It makes him in truth, healthy, happy and a magnificent citizen for the peace that we all see in the far distance and which we know is coming to us in full and good measure some day.



The Assault course : A touch of realism—Shell fire in foreground ; beyond, cadets work their way through a barbed-wire obstacle.



The Assault course. The assault is met by tear gas.



The Obstacle course. The double stride water jump.

The Obstacle course. Across poles over water obstacle.

Three Months' Experience

(*By* A Havildar)

IT will be interesting to you to learn my experiences in the Army during the past three months.

During my journey to join the unit I was told by a civilian clerk in the Army that as a combatant I will feel uneasy and that I will have to subject myself to severe and serious discipline and errors may lead even to a Court Martial. Of course, this frightened me to some extent since I have read frightful accounts of Court Martials in England, in the old days, leading to lashes with the cat (whip we call) on a triangle. After coming here I find that it is not so, as represented and apprehended by me.

A sensible and thoughtful man will easily realize that there are many good things to learn in Army life, such as discipline, team spirit and sense of duty since everything has a set time, place and manner, though it is considered by the general populace at large that joining the Army means having obtained a passport to walk into the jaws of death and that rudeness will only be prevalent since they heartlessly commence shooting when ordered. Barring my personal case, as a believer in Fate, I will straightaway state that such an idea is not wholly correct and that it is to a great extent due to the lack of martial spirit in many of us. This misapprehension will be cleared and people will become heartened if they come to know that there are many South Indian Officers in the Army, some of whom started their career as an ordinary sepoy of Rs. 7 or Rs. 9 and not Rs. 16 as now.

Many of the officers referred to by me were made officers on account of service and capability in military duties and not for educational achievement. Consequently they did not, even if they mixed with the people explain in a convincing manner the merits and demerits of army life and consequently people did not learn much about the good traits of army life. Now, I find many young and enlightened people of all classes are also in the Army and the pay also has decidedly increased.

SOLDIER CLERKS

Well, coming to my experience about which I wanted to tell you and from which I wandered on a reflection on the army conditions then and now, I am pleased to say that I am stationed in a countryside about 5 miles from a city and enjoy a salubrious climate. As a lover of nature I like the opportunity of having easy communion with nature since all around the camp you have a vast expanse of open countryside and no smoky township.

I and my other colleagues have the unique advantage of being called soldier clerks as of course we wield the pen and the gun. It is somewhat difficult to wield a gun of about 10 lb. after having wielded the mighty half-tola pen all these years, but it becomes easy after a short while.

As a soldier I have to do drill every day both physical and military. The physical drill does immense good.

As for clothing we are given complete set of clothing for ordinary daily wear; for cold weather, a great coat to protect us from cold as well as from rain and besides a set of mufty—clothing called Hindustani clothing, which will seem odd to you. However, there is a uniformity in this matter as the colonel of our battalion down to the sepoy wear almost the same uniform while on parade. According to military rules every commissioned officer has to be saluted by officers or men lower in rank to him. This is returned in the same manner, unlike in civil life where certain dignitaries will nod, smile or lift one finger and so on.

RECRUITS AND CLOTHING

With regard to food all ranks are treated alike and great interest is evinced by the officers to see that the men are properly and timely fed and that there is no room for complaint.

Medical attention is very nice, I must say. Because every man, though he is expected to resist disease and not foster it fondly, has to submit himself for prompt treatment if there is real ailment. Medical leave, when recommended by medical authorities, is given with full pay and free passage home. Besides, I find every man will be given periodical voluntary leave by Government with free passage home and when going on casual leave he is given half-fare concession.

About games, they are encouraged and the officers take interest by mixing with the men and thus infuse enthusiasm. Amenities such as radio, magic and other shows, etc., are also arranged for the benefit of the soldiers.

Many new recruits are coming day by day and some of them are Lilliputans when compared to me of even lesser height than the old proverbial soldier of 5′ 6″ and more. Many of these people who come from the country parts with only the *dhoti* on them or—sometimes a torn shirt also on, as soon as they are given a warm and comfortable bedding, 2 sets of uniforms, 3 kinds of footwear and a great

Training at the O.T.S., Bangalore

coat are contriving ways and means to utilize them. So much so many are fondly sticking to the uniform days on end, some try to sleep in it and some try to wear the great coat continuously except on parade, where it is not allowed to be worn. Some think it necessary to be chain-smokers and some to do things according to their fancy since they are away from home. For the officers put over them it becomes a laborious job to put them to proper understanding while they are anxious to train them as efficient soldiers. Some finding that there are restrictions (since they were dreaming from what they were told at the recruiting office, that they will have food and clothing and not much to do) run away little realizing that after having joined the army willingly cannot slip out and that for so doing they are liable to punishment, though these are very few and are usually the ones afraid of work.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

Religion is not affected; on the other hand is encouraged to be observed provided it does not interfere with military duties. Educational aspect is also not wanting since all are made to learn Urdu and Elementary English. Promotion in rank is also not remote as deserving men are given quick lifts.

I shall not bore you by lengthening this. Before concluding I would tell you, asking you not to take me for a toady, that our battalion has got a full set of enthusiastic and kind officers (not tolerant for breach of discipline) and any young man who wants to be active and thorough cannot do better than to join the army where he will learn many good habits which will be to his advantage in the years to come.

Concerning a play that recently opened on Broadway a critic wrote: "The man sitting behind me told a fascinating story about the Boer War." !!

—*Parade*, U. S. A.

THE Officers' Training School at Bangalore has just celebrated its second anniversary, and in this space the number of Cadets under training have grown steadily from four hundred to well over fourteen hundred, and it does not appear that this figure is likely to diminish as long as Cadets are forthcoming for training.

Officers' Training Schools are of interest, we hope, to a continually widening circle of the general public, but to present them in a proper and just perspective is always a matter of some difficulty. There are, in fact, only two classes of persons who may be said to be "in the know," and their knowledge and opinions are from two totally different standpoints—that of the Staff and that of the Student, and it can hardly be expected that these points of view are wholly untinged with bias.

Training has become gradually tougher and more intensive, hours of work longer, and standards possibly more exacting. It is difficult for the Cadet to regard an O.T.S. as anything except a necessary state of purgatory which has to be undergone before the comparatively blissful state of Emergency Commissioned Officer can be reached; so it can hardly be expected that these same E.C.Os. will look back to their school days as being the happiest of their military life! It is those having no previous military background or ideas whatsoever, and who have never experienced discipline, except perhaps the very mildest, in any form, that find the greatest difficulty in adjusting themselves to what must be a totally unfamiliar rule of life. This state of affairs is now being to a large extent remedied by the fact that all Indian Cadets will now pass through certain Pre-Cadet Training Schools, and those who had no knowledge whatsoever of the implications of military service, will be able to discover whether they can adapt themselves to it or not.

MILITARY BACKGROUND TRAINING

What results are we trying to achieve at Bangalore and the other Officers' Training Schools? For those who are going to services other than Infantry and who will receive further technical training, such as Gunners, Signallers and the R.I.A.S.C., we aim to give them as comprehensive a military background as the short time available will allow. For those who are going to Infantry, we aim at making them competent platoon leaders, with sufficient insight into the training and tactics of a company to enable them, after a period

of further experience with their unit, to be competent to take over the command of a company. Most Cadets will be seconds-in-command of companies on joining their regular units and this means that at any moment they will be required to step into the shoes of the Company Commander and do his job.

For the bulk of the Cadets attending Courses, map-reading, tactics and leadership are the things in which proficiency is more particularly demanded, and in which the Cadet, if he fails at all, is least likely to reach the required standard. Some there must be who, however good their scholastic qualifications may be, lack this quality of being able to exercise leadership and display power of command. Without these qualities, however, it is impossible that they can be entrusted with the lives of those whom they will be called upon to command in the field.

As much opportunity as possible is given to all Cadets to show their capacity for leadership. They are given a variety of commands from section to company, and of duties both routine in barracks and field in tactical exercises. Naturally a very high standard is not demanded, and it is only those who show themselves to be possessed, not even in the smallest degree, of initiative, and power of command, who are reckoned to have failed in this respect. A certain definite alertness and toughness is also required, and the obstacle course and the assault course feature both in ensuring that a definite standard of toughness is obtained and also is assessing a Cadet's standard of physical courage, without a good share of which it is impossible that any one can stand up to the trials of war and continue to exercise effective command. Perfect performance is not demanded, what is looked for is determination, which will carry the individual over somehow no matter how exhausted he may be. When a Cadet has mastered the obstacle course in full fighting kit, on top of a short forced march, and can pass his swimming test in the same full kit, he is well on his way to reaching the desired standard of toughness which every young officer should possess.

INTELLECTUAL SIDE

While rightly insisting on toughness of mind and body, the more intellectual side of soldiering is by no means neglected. Over and above the usual lectures and tactical exercises, the latest methods in warfare are clearly brought home to all by means of the excellent series of training films which are now available. Periods are also set aside for questions and discussions on the course of the war, and in fact on any subject which has a bearing on the military or political situation, or on military training or doctrine in general. All the schools, and Bangalore is no exception, have well-stocked libraries, in which are books giving all that is most up-to date in military and political thought, at the same time not neglecting the romance or the thriller which provides a welcome mental relaxation, or works on Art or Letters, a boon to those who may feel cut off from the more gracious and intellectual Arts of Peace.

A maximum of six months is a short time in which to make a competent reliable commissioned officer, and it requires a considerable amount of hard work and good-will on the part of all concerned to make the training a success. The training is intensive in every way, there is an element of the survival of the fittest about it, but it is the fittest that we require to lead our men in battle if we are going to win this war.

A MIRACLE

During the War I was privileged to watch the famous French doctor, Lemaitre, in his treatment of the wounded. One night I entered the waiting-room to find a huge French soldier with one of the most terrible wounds I had yet seen. He was being dressed, preparatory to operation, and in the exhaustion stage of hæmorrhage, he was deathly pale, his eyes lustreless, his hands icy, his pulse running 180 and hardly perceptible. To my utter surprise, Lemaitre, after feeling his pulse, roughly threw aside his hand, and fell into a terrible rage, calling the poor suffering man a coward in every barnyard term in the French language of abuse.

Astounded, I walked away with Lemaitre. When we were out of hearing, he said : "Go back and take his pulse, and let me know what it is." I went back and found that a miracle had been worked. The man had half risen on his elbow and was shaking his fist in the surgeon's direction. I could not believe my watch: pulse rate only 120 per minute ! I returned and made my report, whereupon Lemaitre remarked : "You may have him brought in now."

And he was successfully operated on
—Col. Bailey K. Ashford,
A Soldier in Science.

The Travelled Indian Soldier

Influence on Post-War Village Life

(*By* An Indian Observer)

THE impact of wide travel on the Indian soldier has scarcely been visualized. Before coming out to the Middle East, I saw and spoke to a number of our men at the ports of embarkation. And I have seen and spoken to them now after a year or more of a varied life here. Gone is that shy uncertain look that many a recruits had in Bombay or Karachi. Some had never seen the sea. Others had been astounded at the hurry and bustle of a big city.

That is all past history to them now. They have an assured self-confident attitude about them that speaks volumes. They are sturdier after a year of campaigning and both in their gait and bearing there is a new air of independence. They seem to be conscious of good and valiant deeds done and the praise bestowed on them by their Commanders has encouraged them in their efforts to keep clean and healthy.

This education by travel of thousands of our men in the Middle East and elsewhere will be one of the most enduring after-effects of the war and is bound to have a deep influence on the development and progress of Indian village life.

Our forces have seen many new peoples and new lands. They have come in contact with modern civilization in various stages of development. In Cairo and Alexandria they have seen a life-pattern, rich with a mixture of the East and West. In Palestine they have admired the industry and perseverance of the Jewish race that is turning that country once again into a land of milk and honey. They have been impressed by the contrast in Iraq where the village people are perhaps poorer than in their own motherland.

THE VALUE OF TRAVEL

Travel teaches unconsciously. The daily kaleidoscope impresses scenes on the mind more vividly than any book or picture. And as troops—including the thousands behind our actually fighting front line forces—have been shifted from one point to another, they have seen the conditions of life in various lands and have also learnt the value of frugality and industry and of thinking for tomorrow.

Recruitment in India has been widespread throughout the country and not confined to the martial races or provinces as in the last war. Almost every taluka has given its quota. Men have joined from Kashmir and Nepal in the north to Cochin and Cape Comorin in the south. The Bengali and the Baluchi have been in the field together with the Deccanese and Madrasi. The benefits of this education will therefore be felt all over India when they return to their valleys and fields and their mud villages.

In far Cyprus—not far from our swift and expanding army, but for peacetime India—I came across a peasant lad from a little Satara village in the Bombay Presidency. Laxman Bhosale was born of poor farm labourers. He had had no education except the little Marathi he had been taught in school. The lad would have continued to live the dull and uneventful life of an Indian peasant, working in the fields from morning till nightfall to eke out a bare subsistence. He would have soon set up a little hut for himself where he would have lived with his young wife as his forefathers did before him. The great event of his life would have been a visit to Poona or perhaps even Bombay.

THE OLD ORDER CHANGED

All this has now been changed. Laxman has not only seen Bombay. He has been overseas and has visited many important cities of the world. He has yet but a dim idea of the great progress made by mankind from his small primitive village to the metropolis of Cairo. His stay for several months in Egypt and in Cyprus, however, is teaching him how far behind the elders of his village were in their pontifications.

When he returns home after the war, that little village in the Satara district is going to profit by his varied experience. He will tell his co-villagers something of the agricultural economy in Cyprus—how trees are being planted there, how new types of ploughs are being used, drawn by horses or moved by motor. Travel has broadened his outlook, making him more respective to new plans and to reforms. His Army training has given him initiative and power of command. He will surely endeavour to improve the condition of life in his village, accustomed as he has been to a higher standard of living.

And there are thousands of such young men who will take their experience and knowledge back with them to their village homes. The discipline, courage and powers of endurance instilled into so many of them by their Army training will be valuable influence of India's future village life. The wider outlook, engendered by travel, will be one of the major beneficial factors in the solution of our problems of post-war reconstruction.

Faithfulness and Courage

Story of a Prince and an Orderly

KESHAV BHOSLE

KESHAV'S mother died when he was 8 years old and Keshav's father married again which did not make it happy for Keshav.

The Ruler of the State where Keshav lived was a certain Maharaja who took pity on him and took him into his own house to be brought up amongst his own household. As he grew up Keshav became very much attached to the Maharaja who taught him to shoot and ride and when he was old enough Keshav began to accompany the Maharaja in all his expeditions for shikar and pig-sticking. In fact he became the Maharaja's shadow and devoted servant.

Then this war broke out and the Maharaja left the care of the State in the very capable hands of his Maharani and went off to train as an officer of the Indian Army.

He first studied at the Cadet School at Indore and Keshav accompanied him. He then went to the Officers' Training School at Mhow. Again Keshav accompanied him. Finally the Maharaja passed out of the school and was given His Majesty's Commission, and went down to the Regimental Training Centre.

KESHAV'S REQUEST

After a short period there he was detailed to proceed overseas, and joined the battalion to which he was gazetted. The Maharaja was allowed to take a special orderly from his own State with him. So he took a few days leave up to his State to settle his affairs and collect an orderly. He decided to take an old and experienced Havildar of his own Bodyguard.

Keshav hearing of this went to the Maharaja and asked to be taken instead. Of course the Maharaja answered that it was quite impossible as Keshav knew nothing about soldiering and anyhow was still much too young. Young Keshav begged of the Maharaja to take him. But the Prince was adamant. Keshav said nothing but went away broken hearted.

Next day he came back to the Prince and said he had come to say good-bye as if the Prince would not take him with him he would not be in the State when the Prince came back. Questioned he explained that people would say that he was always with the Prince when he went shikar, pig-sticking and generally a jolly life but when the Prince was going into danger he had stayed behind, and he was not prepared to face that. The Maharaja was so touched by this that he finally agreed to take him. Keshav overjoyed rushed off to get ready, and returning to the Training Centre with his Maharaja he was sworn in, collected his kit and went overseas with him as his personal orderly.

When he joined his battalion in the Western Desert the Maharaja was given a dug-out to live in and his orderly a separate one. But this was not Keshav's idea. He protested loudly and said that any bullet that was likely to hit the Maharaja must hit him too. It was an unheard of thing and quite outside military custom for an orderly to sleep in the same dug-out as his Officer. But Keshav's devotion was so apparent that a special case was made of it and he was permitted to do so and from that time on, he always slept at the Maharaja's feet while they were overseas together.

AT THE POST OF DANGER

On one occasion, the Prince in the course of duty as an officer of the battalion was sent with an anti-tank gun to guard a pass about eight miles away against a possible enemy tank column. Knowing the hazards, the Maharaja decided to leave Keshav behind and say nothing to him about it.

About sunset, Keshav began to worry as to what had become of the Maharaja and started asking questions. Finally, being very suspicious that the Maharaja had gone off to some dangerous job and had told him nothing, he went to the Subedar-Major and asked him point blank. Mildly amused, the Subedar-Major told him where he had gone and the nature of the duty. He promptly demanded to be sent out to join the Maharaja. He was told that that was not possible. However young Keshav made such a fuss that finally the Subedar-Major allowed him to jump into a passing vehicle which was going out there and about 9 p.m. he arrived at the pass and in his haversack, he brought food and drink for His Highness, and there he spent the night on guard watching over His Highness to see that he got into no danger.

After this episode it became an accepted fact that wherever the Maharaja went Keshav accompanied him.

NARROW ESCAPES

Shortly after this, the battalion became seriously engaged with the enemy and it was noticed by every one that from whatever direction the bullets seemed to be coming Keshav always managed to get on to the side of the Maharaja to cover him. They had one or two narrow escapes but fortune favoured them and they subsequently arrived back into the rest area both of them completely unscathed. From this rest area, the Maharaja was permitted to return to India by air on leave, to settle some affairs of his State. By that time, every one had got so used to Keshav being wherever the Maharaja was that he automatically was given a seat in the same aeroplane and both are back happily again in India.

The little story is an epic of faithfulness and courage which should not go unrecorded. The Maharaja who temporarily foresook the luxury and comfort of a ruling Prince and went through the rigorous training necessary to become a fighting Officer and then shared with the Battalion the discomforts and dangers of a fighting leader in the true tradition of his ancestors and the Great Shivaji was Lieut. Sir Vikramasingrao Powar, K.C.I.E., Maharaja of Dewas Senior and of Maharatta Light Infantry and the devoted orderly was Keshav Pandurang Bhosle of Dewas Senior, Maharatta Light Infantry.

Primarily this is the story of Keshav Bhosle the orderly. But, in it, there is another lesson. In time of danger to his country, His Highness laid aside his high estate, took his training as an ordinary cadet to equip himself for the fighting leadership of those tough soldiers the Mahrattas and was content to accept the lowest officer's rank and so gain experience and fit himself for higher things.

He realized that to lead men in War was an entirely different matter to his exalted avocations in peace, and that it was necessary to learn from the beginning in order to fit himself to lead without unnecessarily risking the lives of the fighting Mahratta soldiers. As long as this spirit survives amongst the Mahratta leaders we need never fear that the spirit inculcated by Shivaji the Great will ever die.

DUTY OF INDIAN CITIZENS

"I should also like to impress on all in India that what the soldier of any nationality appreciates even more than comfort, more than clubs or canteens, is the feeling that he is welcomed, that he is appreciated, that he is treated as a fellow-countryman and a friend, who is making some sacrifice for the common cause. All that any of you can do to make the soldier, whatever his nationality, rank or creed, feel at home and welcome will be deeply appreciated our common effort by helping to maintain the high morale of our army in India, which I have the great honour to command."

—GENERAL WAVELL, *in a speech on October 3rd.*

Siege of El Adem

Indians' Successful Defence and Withdrawal

THE performance of Indian troops in the El Adem "box" during the recent campaign will long be remembered as an example of tenacious defence against great odds.

El Adem was a strong point of great importance in the defence scheme we had organized to meet any emergency. It lies about 30 miles south of Tobruk, on the bypass to Derna, and was the terminus of the desert railway built by New Zealanders and Indians (writes an Indian Army Observer). There is a fine aerodrome here, and about three miles from the aerodrome was the defence position known as the El Adem box. While this box held out no attack could develop on Tobruk itself.

The box had been carefully prepared, but it was overlooked by an escarpment. The garrison was originally intended to be maintained at brigade strength, but at the time of the German advance it consisted of two battalions, one of the 5th Mahratta Light Infantry and the other of the 2nd Punjab Regiment.

Between May 27 and June 16 El Adem was besieged thrice, and repeated assaults were beaten off with heavy enemy losses. Up to the time of our withdrawal no enemy penetration had occurred in any sector.

In the first rush German tanks occupied Ed Duda and even Belhamid (on the El Adem-Tobruk road), but they were thrown back almost immediately. An attack on El Adem proved abortive, too.

After the evacuation of Bir Hacheim the 90th Light Lorried Infantry, supported by tanks of the 21st Panzer Division, again surrounded El Adem, and put in a furious assault. They were beaten back, and when the Garhwalis counter-attacked from the north, the German infantry fled in confusion, leaving behind them a number of British and Indian prisoners taken from intercepted convoys. It was here that ten unarmed Garhwalis prisoners came back with 11 German prisoners, and a Mahratta L/Naik was entreated by 12 Germans to allow them to accompany him as his prisoners!

SUCCESSFUL WITHDRAWAL

When on June 13, as a result of an unfortunate engagement, our armour suffered a crippling blow, and troops had to be withdrawn from the Gazala line, the enemy's full pressure was exerted against El Adem. The box was completely cut off. Heavy guns poured in shells continuously. Planes bombed and machine-gunned the garrison, and then tanks advanced to crush the battered (as they believed) Punjabis and Mahrattas.

On June 14 the first two attacks were directed against the Mahratta's sector. The attackers must have had a rude shock, for instead of coming up against demoralised and shell-shocked troops, as they had expected, the Germans received a hot reception from alert defenders. The Germans went back and tried the Punjabis' defences. Here they discovered that they were even less welcome, and they retired to think it over.

The garrison was not entirely on the defensive even in these circumstances. A Mahratta patrol went out and spotted a gun which had been proving troublesome. Jem. Raja Ram Nikam, who led the patrol, was wounded, but he brought his men back safely, and reported the position to our artillery. The enemy gun position was shelled to pieces.

At night patrols went outside the wire and kept watch. They even took the opportunity to raid and harass the enemy. A Punjabi patrol saw a tank prowling about in the dark. The tank was ambushed and destroyed with bombs, one prisoner being taken. A truck and an armoured car accompanying the tank managed to escape at top speed. This, the Punjabis thought, was a poor show, but they pleaded to be excused as poor visibility had hampered them.

Mahratta anti-tank guns claimed two tanks for sure and one probable. Hav. Sakha Ram Sawant got both tanks, but at a cost of his own life. Next day these guns came in for heavy shelling by the enemy, and two two-pounders were destroyed by direct hits. No attack developed in this sector, however.

HEAVY AXIS CASUALTIES

Enemy sorties continued, but were all beaten back. Axis casualties in these futile attacks can be gauged from the fact that in one day alone the German and Italian ambulance fleets made six trips towards the wire to pick up their dead and wounded.

On June 16 orders were given for a withdrawal, but soon afterwards they were cancelled. The battalions were told that they would hold El Adem regardless of cost. The decision was greeted by the men with whole-hearted enthusiasm. They did not relish the idea of running away after having foiled all the enemy's thrusts.

Later, the same night, it was decided not to sacrifice these two valiant battalions, and they were ordered to withdraw as soon as possible. Methodically the men set about destroying everything they could not carry. At about 0100 hours on June 17, the battalions sallied out into the night, and began the hazardous passage through the enemy concentrations.

Such transport as was inside the box had to pass through the main gaps. The original scheme was that the Royal Air Force should come over at the same time, and bomb and machine-gun the enemy, making as much noise and causing as much confusion as possible to cover the sound of the withdrawing vehicles. This was not found practicable. The result was that the withdrawal was discovered quickly, and the gaps came under heavy fire. Vehicles were damaged, or were set alight, and only a few of them managed to get out of the box.

The Infantry went out on foot through specially made paths across the minefields. They had a comparatively easy time to begin with. Once outside the box, however, they ran into enemy lagers and camps, and most of the way back—they had to walk about 20 miles—they kept encountering enemy columns. In this withdrawal, the Punjabis had only some casualties and the Mahrattas a number of men missing.

A WEIRD MARCH

It was a weird march, a night full of incidents and accidents. Queer things happened to each of the small parties into which the battalions had split up in order to make the withdrawal easier for us, and more difficult to tackle by the enemy. A general idea of the happenings of that night can be had from the experiences of Subedar Dera Singh, I.O.M. (2 Punjabis) and his party of about 30 men. Soon after leaving the box, the Subedar Sahib contacted the enemy. He organized his party in the form of a rough circle and ordered them to go through, firing as they went. The first enemy position was passed without difficulty. Then came a greater concentration. The Punjabis went straight into it, and emerged with their bayonets reddened and rifle butts dented. It was hot work while it lasted. One L/Naik grappled with two Germans. He quietened them with the spare barrel of a Bren gun he was carrying.

The Germans were in very shallow trenches (the Subedar Sahib commented on this as showing their inefficiency). Dera Singh stepped on a German hiding in one of these trenches, and another German tried to get hold of his legs and pull him down. The Subedar Sahib, who was in the centre of the circle, had not drawn his pistol, as he was afraid of hitting one of his own men, but he had a stick in his hand. He put one foot on the neck of the German, and beat him unconscious with the stick. The German had a thick skull, it broke the stick. Dera Singh complained that the action had cost him 16 piastres, and claimed that he should be indemnified by the authorities. The other German received a bayonet thrust.

GERMANS SURRENDER

The Subedar Sahib asserted that he saw Germans standing up with their hands raised high. " My men urged me to take prisoners along with us, " he said " but I protested, and argued that we could scarcely take so many being so few ourselves. I explained that guarding them would hamper our progress, and the men finally agreed with me, though somewhat half-heartedly."

Some of the Punjabis were wounded. Most of them kept up, still firing, but at least one man was seriously hurt. The Subedar Sahib had carried him about 200 yards when the wounded man insisted that he be left behind. " I will curse myself always afterwards if on my account you are captured, " he told Dera Singh. He did not budge from his resolution, and remained where he was.

The Punjabis had been instructed to shout and create as much noise as possible in order to give the impression that they were a powerful body. This had the desired effect in the immediate vicinity, but attracted more and more enemy forces towards them. Carriers and tanks rushed to the conflict and began to chase the Punjabis. The darkness prevented them spotting Dera Singh and his men as long as they remained quiet, but the sound of movement could be heard by the carriers, who were close to the party. These carriers then signalled to the tanks with Very lights to come up.

A game of hide and seek went on throughout the night. The Punjabis would move a little distance and then keep quiet, while the carriers tried to follow and bring up the tanks. At 0400 hours, the enemy was still close, and the Punjabis were worried for the first time.

At last, growing tired of the game, they decided to risk everything on a final rush. Throwing caution to the winds, they set off at top speed. Their courage was rewarded. They had doubled two miles when they fell in with one of our motor brigades.

Special Army Supplement

How to be happy in India

[The following unofficial memorandum throws an interesting and humane light on the importance attached by British officers to the study of their men and to their feelings and behaviour in a strange country.]

THE British soldier, who may previously have never left his native land, enters a new world on arrival in India.

His happiness depends to a large extent upon himself. It depends on whether he intends merely to lament his enforced absence from his home, or whether he proposes to extract from new surroundings the maximum of enjoyment.

" But what about the language difficulty " the reader may ask! Well, in the Madras Presidency very many Indians speak English, while soldiers in the Bombay Presidency should have little difficulty in picking up sufficient Urdu to make themselves understood.

No British man need hesitate to be on good terms with Indians and the British Officers of the Indian Army are proud to regard their men as personal friends.

Each man when abroad in his country's ambassador, and much depends on how each one of us behaves in India. Every instance

British Officers and Indian sepoys together in the water, enjoying a most welcome bath and swim.

Provided the soldier adopts the right attitude, he will find himself embarked on a great adventure which becomes more interesting as time passes, and his knowledge of the country increases.

First of all he will want to know something about the inhabitants of India. The Indians are, it is true, a different race from the British, but not an inferior one. Their customs are unlike ours and so are their manners, though no one can deny they are among the politest people in the world. Of course there are good and bad in every race, but I have never known a case where an Indian has failed to respond to politeness and kindness. Intensely sensitive they know at once if you like them, and will be only too pleased to talk to you about their customs, other than purely domestic, and manners.

of rudeness detracts from the War efforts, each example of courtesy helps our own country.

The Army is trying to help every British soldier, by providing information on Southern India but you on your side remember, " God helps those who help themselves." If you do so you will find yourself amply rewarded, for the cities are rich in buildings of architectural interest, while the country provide scenes as beautiful as any in England—but they are often beautiful in another way and again it is a case of not inferior but different.

One last word don't talk politics. And if any Indian wishes to do so with you, tell him you are a soldier and not a politician, but none the less a man who, when victory has been gained over the Axis, looks forward to seeing India prosperous and free.

PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS AND PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF WAR PUBLICITY, " VICTORY HOUSE ", MOUNT ROAD, MADRAS.